

**TOWN OF ROYALSTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2007
7:00 P.M.**

Present: Andrew West, Chairman; Thomas Kellner, Clerk; and Linda Alger, Member.

1. Chairman West called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.
2. The minutes of the 2/20/07 meeting were read. Two corrections were made and noted. Mr. Kellner made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. Alger seconded the motion, with the Board voting unanimously in favor.
3. Acknowledgements/Announcements/Correspondence:
 - a) The Board is in receipt of a letter of resignation from Lori Blanchard, Town Accountant, due to personal reasons. Ms. Blanchard's resignation was accepted with regret. Mr. West asked Helen Divoll to post and advertise the position in the Athol Daily News and Worcester Telegram, with resumes due by 4/2/07. Interviews will be scheduled for 4/3/07.
 - b) Mr. Kellner made a motion to approve a request from Rene Lake for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt on 4/7/07 and to waive the fee. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
 - c) Ms. Alger made a motion to approve a request from Charles Scribner for the use of Bullock Park on 4/28/07 for the Annual Roadside Clean-up Day. Mr. Kellner seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor. The Board agreed that fees at the Transfer Station for disposal of trash would be waived.
 - d) Ms. Alger will investigate payments made from the insurance account and will reconcile the balance.
 - e) Outstanding invoices from Carquest for purchases made by the Fire Department were discussed. Some of the invoices are from last fiscal year. Mr. West will forward them to the Fire Chief and request that they be dealt with expeditiously and also that an explanation be provided to the Board as to why they were not paid.
 - f) Herve Bosse has submitted a letter of resignation from his position of Police Officer as of 3/31/07 due to a career change. The Board accepted Mr. Bosse's resignation with regret.
 - g) Ms. Alger made a motion to approve a request from Risa Richardson for use of the Town Hall on the following dates: 3/26, 4/10, 4/23, 5/17, 5/18, and 6/9/07 and to waive the fee. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was Ms. Alger and Mr. Kellner, yes; with Mr. West abstaining.
 - h) After a brief discussion regarding appointments, Mr. Kellner made a motion to request better advice from Kopelman & Paige on how to proceed with appointments. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
4. Old Business:
 - a) Risa Richardson – Village School - Discussion was held regarding the extension of the Village School lease. Keith Newton stated that the town has spent a lot of money to keep the building as a school rather than just a place for public assembly. He feels that a meeting should be held to discuss short and long-term goals for the building. Ms. Richardson stated that she is looking for a three-year extension. Ms. Alger suggested that the lease be extended for two years and that the parties review the matter at that time to see where the town stands with its space needs. She recommended that the rental cost remain the same for the first year, and then increase 2-1/2 percent in the second year. Ms. Alger made a motion to renew the lease for the Village School for two years; the rent for the 1st year to remain at \$15,000/year, the rent for the 2nd year to increase by 2-1/2 percent for a total of \$15,375/year and that Ms. Richardson report to the Board every six months. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was Mr. Kellner, yes; and Ms. Alger, yes. Mr. West abstained.
 - b) Streetlight Contract – Mr. West stated that National Grid has said no to the changes recommended by Kopelman & Paige, but George Woodbury said that it is a boilerplate

contract. Mr. West currently has feelers out for possibilities for a maintenance contract. Mr. Kellner felt that the Board should have a better sense of how the streetlights would be maintained before going forward.

- c) Ms. Alger reported on recent actions taken by the Regional Agreement Subcommittee. A public hearing for Athol is scheduled for 3/21/07. Mr. Kellner made a motion to send a letter on behalf of the Board supporting the sentiments of the community, i.e., endorsement of designating the Royalston Community School as Pre-K thru 6, to the School Committee members. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. Ms. Alger will write the letter.
- d) Mr. West will check on the exact progress of the Assessors with regard to sending out tax bills.

5. Department Head Reports:

a) DPW –

- 1) Keith Newton reported that he is receiving more calls from vendors who are looking for payment on past due invoices.
- 2) The Request for Proposals for the Engineering and Design work for the Route 32 project will be published in the Central Register tomorrow.
- 3) Repairs have been made to the Town Hall furnace. Projected funding for replacement of the furnace (\$3,600) will be included in the budget for next fiscal year.

b) Police Department –

- 1) Chief Deveneau provided the Board with an activity report for the month of February.
- 2) The Chief reported that the Mass. Motorcycle Association has requested approval to erect signs for Motorcycle Week. He would put the sign in the parking area at the public safety building. Mr. Kellner made a motion to approve the sign and to waive the fee. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was Mr. Kellner, yes; Ms. Alger, yes; and Mr. West, no. Mr. Kellner made a motion to declare the last week of March and first week of April the Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Period. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
- 3) DARE graduation will be held on Friday, 3/9/07 at 2 p.m. Mr. West will write letters of congratulations to the graduates.

6. New Business:

a) Budget Hearings with Department Heads:

- 1) Police Department – Chief Deveneau presented his proposed budget to the Board. He wants to increase the wages of police officers and firefighters by 3% (cost of living increase). Discussion was held regarding how many officers are currently on the department and how many hours per week they work, as well as on other portions of the budget. Mr. Kellner suggested that the Board recommend to keep the wage increases inline with every other department. Ms. Alger recommended that the Board support the jump in pay grade for sergeants as proposed.
- 2) Board of Health – Phil Leger presented the proposed budget. After some discussion, Mr. Kellner made a motion to recommend the budget as submitted. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.
- 3) The Board reviewed several other budget proposals.

- b) Mr. Kellner made a motion to approve the annual election warrant. Ms. Alger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

7. The Treasury Warrant was signed.

8. At 10:32 p.m., Mr. West made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Kellner seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor. Minutes recorded by Diana Newton.

Minutes approved by the Board of Selectmen on March 27, 2007.